



### BEST BITES

## Rewarding Your Sweet Tooth

Those sugary sayings that are handed out like candy during Christmas time should be redirected toward the summer months, at least when it comes to the Fredericksburg region. Thanks to the Olde Time Lollipops Candy and Fudge Factory, kids get to do more than just dream of dancing sugar plums and figgy pudding—they can have their pick from dozens of hard-to-find goodies!

Located in Downtown Fredericksburg on 705 Caroline Street (across the street from the visitor's center) this mom-and-pop store offers an impressive selection of candy that will satisfy any sweet tooth. The store's claim to fame is their 14 different types of fudge made daily— if you buy a pound, you get a half-pound for free— and 16 flavors of Hershey's ice cream. In addition, there are dozens of different treats around the store, including black licorice gum, fireballs and taffy. For those adults pining for the type of candy they had growing up, this is the place to be. the Fudge Factory has more retro goodies than you can shake a cinnamon stick at.

Owned and run by Cheri and Ron McGaffic, the Fudge Factory has been a popular staple in the downtown community for years, what with their impeccable service and hand-made products. When you walk into the quaint little

store, the first thing you notice is the wall-to-wall jars filled with home-made lollipops, chocolate pretzels, pecan caramel turtles and any type of gummy concoction you can think of. Unlike corporate stores filled with flashy products and high-tech gadgetry, the Fudge Factory is an old-fashioned type of business that puts quality products and customer care above everything else. And it works; the entire place has a very relaxed and homely feel to it. It's almost like you're walking into your mother's kitchen, eager to get your hands on some fresh goodies.

Complementing the store's wide selection of offerings is their community-oriented programs. If you're more than a nut about candy and you find yourself with some time, you can sign up for one of the store's candy-making classes. Not only do these courses offer a fun way to get a "taste" of what it takes to be in the candy business, but you'll be able to bond with other dessert lovers over fudge and peppermint. If you have a birthday party coming up and you want to make it memorable, the Fudge Factory has everything you need to keep your kids smiling. What's more, they offer elaborate fudge and candy gift baskets for special occasions like graduations and weddings.

Conveniently located in the historic district, the Fudge



Factory has become a fun and tasty get-away for locals and tourists alike. Or, if you're near a computer, browse their Web site at [www.oldetownlollipops.com](http://www.oldetownlollipops.com) and preview the variety of snacks they offer. However you decide to get your candy fix, you can't go wrong with the Fudge Factory.

This summer, if you're looking for delicious desserts at reasonable prices or an inexpensive trip down memory lane, look no further. The Fudge Factory has everything you need to keep your sweet tooth satisfied.

— Nicholas Addison Thomas

**The Fudge Factory**

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